

Screening & Immunisation – a Birmingham update

Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board: 22nd September 2020

For any questions or queries, please contact: andrew.dalton4@nhs.net

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Antenatal & Newborn Screening (ANNB)

- Antenatal and newborn screening has not stopped during the Covid pandemic
- Some relaxation of screening timelines and standards, but these now returned to pre-Covid
- Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (and subsequent audiology referral) developed a backlog through the Covid peak:
 - Services have largely worked through these/ have plans for any remaining work – with clinics at pre-Covid levels
- Some use of alternate venues, such as football grounds for newborn hearing catch up clinics

Breast Screening (BSP)

- Routine breast screening paused in March
 - All services continued to assess women already screened, very high risk screening maintained in 2/3 services (resumed in May)
- Routine screening resumed June-August
 - Initially resumed at a lower rate due to increased infection control, distancing etc.
- National programme changing from tied to open first appointments from September 30th with aim to restore screening intervals faster. Some risk around uptake mitigated through engagement with screening population and GPs
- Some replacement of screening equipment in Birmingham area

Bowel Cancer Screening (BCSP)

- Issuing of new screening kits ceased in March, with screening 'centres' (who managed people with +ve screen) also pausing
- Initial restoration of programme focused on screening centres, assess those already with positive screening result
 - This resumed in early June
- The issuing of new screening kits to the population resumed on 3rd August
 - Screening rates initially below pre-Covid, but ongoing work to increase this to pre-Covid and beyond
 - Screening currently behind the two yearly recall period – now restored focus is to catch this up.

Cervical Screening (CSP)

- The regional laboratory that test screening samples closed in March – equipment repurposed for Covid testing
 - All cervical screening ceased
 - All new invites from the national programme paused from 9th April - 6th June
 - Lab returned to cervical screening work late May
- Laboratory service fully restored. Sample turnaround times for RWT are now back within 14-day target.
 - Additional equipment allows for Covid and cervical screening work in parallel
- Resumption of the national invites: initially below pre-Covid with gradual increase – schedule set to return to screening intervals in May 2021
 - Catch up on 'higher risk' cohorts first
- Colposcopy remained open, but were able to defer some patients
 - Deferred patients cleared; ongoing work to ensure clinic capacity meets need

Diabetic Eye Screening (DESP)

- Screening paused on 16th March;
- Resumption of screening split into two phases – higher and lower risk
 - Restoration of screening for higher risk underway
 - Plans and timelines in place for resumption of low risk screening (pts who have previously been screened and showed no abnormalities)
- Capacity in screening and access to screening venues affected by social distancing & infection control measures

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening (AAA)

- Suspended paused on 23rd March
- Screening resumed on 10th August; both for surveillance and new screening.
 - Initial goal is to clear both 19/20 and 20/20 cohorts – with plans to increase capacity to catch up with annual cohorts.
- Service has reduced access to venues and capacity reduction due to longer appointment times.

Immunisations – School-Age Immunisation Service (SAIS)

BCHC- Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust:

- Providers ceased delivering vaccinations in March when schools closed,
- - they recommenced at the end of June , with some schools allowing access and the provider also used local community venues to deliver services.
- The provider has continued to offer services through the summer holidays to attempt to catch up on some of the activity missed due to the school closures.
- In September BCHC will also be the provider for the Solihull area.
- The plan is to complete the catch up during the upcoming academic year, this is challenging however the provider is planning to achieve this.

Immunisations – Childhood

- Childhood immunisations continued during Covid.
- Some impact on doses of vaccine given in the region compared to expected (peaking March-May) but returned to expected by June
- Catch up of activity through existing mechanisms in primary care

Immunisations – Flu

- Uncertainties created by Covid-19 have made flu planning a challenge this year. Issues such as staff absences, venues for vaccinations, and possible school closures add complexity, as well as considerations regarding social distancing and infection prevention measures.
- National ambitions have been raised to at least 75% for all groups and the flu programme has been extended to include two additional cohorts:
 - Children in year 7 at school
 - 50 – 65 years (later in the season if the vaccine is available)
- All providers have been asked to review vaccine orders in light of increase.
- STP's flu plans aim to bring all stakeholders together to deliver a systems wide approach in the local health economy.

Return to business as usual

Questions?